



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority
Policy and Strategy Committee

COLLABORATION UPDATE

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Date: 24 July 2020

Purpose of Report:

To update Members on the progress of collaboration activities.

Recommendations:

That Members note the contents of this report

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Since approval by the Fire Authority of the Service's Collaboration Strategy in September 2018, work has been on-going to progress a number of collaboration projects and opportunities to work more closely with partner agencies, primarily emergency services, in the interests of efficiency, effectiveness or improving community outcomes.
- 1.2 A large proportion of this work has taken place with colleagues at Nottinghamshire Police; however, collaboration projects are also on-going with Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service, and with East Midlands Ambulance Service.
- 1.3 Members will be aware that collaboration formed an integral part of the Sustainability Strategy 2020, which aimed to assist the Authority to meet its future financial challenges.
- 1.4 To date a number of projects have been realised, some of which have now become business as usual. These include a Joint Fire Control function for Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, joint procurement and use of bunkered fuel with Nottinghamshire Police, and co-location with the Police at a number of fire stations, including Highfields, Carlton, East Leake and London Road.
- 1.5 An assessment of collaboration activities was included as part of the inspection carried out by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) last year; the future embedding and evaluation of collaboration projects remains an important part of the Service's HMICFRS action plan and the Service priorities identified for the coming year.
- 1.6 The Police-Fire Collaboration Delivery Board and Strategic Collaboration Board meet on a regular basis. The Boards monitor progress of each of the collaboration workstreams and give direction to the theme leads.
- 1.7 A similar governance structure is also established with Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- 1.8 The Joint Headquarters Programme Board meets on a regular basis to oversee each of the projects identified as being required to deliver a successful joint Police and Fire Headquarters in 2021/22. The Board reports on progress to the Collaboration Delivery Board and Strategic Collaboration Board.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 **Joint Headquarters (JHQ)** – following a thorough tendering process jointly managed by both Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service and Nottinghamshire Police's procurement teams, Beeston-based construction company, Henry Brothers Midlands, has been appointed as the preferred

contractor for the construction of the new building which will form part of the new Joint Police and Fire Headquarters at Sherwood Lodge.

- 2.2 Enabling works, including the removal of a number of trees and the removal of some pre-fabricated buildings, have already been completed on site. The date for work to start for the new building was 13 July 2020 and some pre-start activities, such as the delivery of fencing and cabins, took place prior to this.
- 2.3 Work to create a memorial garden for fallen police and fire colleagues is progressing well and it is hoped an opening ceremony will take place later this year.
- 2.4 At a meeting of the Strategic Collaboration Board on 5 May 2020, a joint ownership model was proposed as an alternative to a Limited Liability Partnership (LLP); a separate report on this is to be presented to Members.
- 2.5 A communications plan is in place for the Joint Headquarters programme, and the communications teams from both organisations worked together to publicise the appointment of the contractor and the start of the work on site.
- 2.6 **West Bridgford Police and Fire Station** – work to redevelop West Bridgford fire station as a joint Police and Fire station was temporarily put on hold due to the coronavirus and furloughing of Highways staff; this impacted on work to create the entrance to the new car parking area and the re-location of traffic signalling equipment and a communications mast.
- 2.7 Other civil works have commenced, with a planned completion date of 24 July 2020. It is anticipated that Highways and Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS) contracted civil works will run in parallel during this period.
- 2.8 The internal accommodation works are complete and the areas to be occupied by Nottinghamshire Police have been furnished. A move-in date of early August is anticipated subject to completion of the outstanding works.
- 2.9 **Ambulance, Police and Fire Station, Hucknall** – the official launch for the new Ambulance, Police and Fire station in Hucknall was scheduled for March 2020, however, this had to be put on hold due to the coronavirus crisis. It is hoped a new date can be identified, once it is safe to do so.
- 2.10 **Prevention** – a number of workstreams are on-going with Nottinghamshire Police with regards to prevention activity. These include joint approaches to rural safety and crime prevention, road safety and work in schools, as well as a jointly-delivered Cadets programme.
- 2.11 While some prevention initiatives and activities have been temporarily put on hold due to the coronavirus pandemic, five workstreams have been identified for further development during 2020/21. These have been agreed by the respective Chief Inspectors within Nottinghamshire Police in liaison with the Prevention Area Manager at Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service.

- 2.12 **Rural Intervention** – this collaboration workstream began in 2019/20, but changes in personnel meant it was not embedded as effectively as was hoped. The appointment of a new dedicated Chief Inspector has presented opportunities for revised plans for the coming year, including refreshing the joint guidance folder for the farming community, the potential for joint events, and closer proactive working during the summer and autumn months.
- 2.13 **Road Safety** – the Nottinghamshire Road Safety Partnership Strategic Group is chaired and vice-chaired by Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service and Nottinghamshire Police respectively, working with partners to improve road safety across the city and county.
- 2.14 In 2020/21 both organisations will work closely together to build on the success of Operation Thought and Operation Highway, two joint road safety initiatives that were carried out in 2019, as well as reviewing the success of the fire service-delivered ‘Biker Down’ initiative to see if there are opportunities for closer collaboration.
- 2.15 **Joint Cadets Programme** – the joint Police and Fire cadets programme has been operating successfully from Highfields fire station and is due to be embedded there, once it is safe to do so. A joint Memorandum of Understanding is in place for the provision of a cadets programme in the future, with plans to roll this out to two additional locations in 2020/21.
- 2.16 **CHARLIE Referral Training** – a business case is being developed to deliver CHARLIE referral training (a profile developed by Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service of those people who are most at risk from fire and other incidents in the home) to PCSOs and PCs. This will be submitted to the next meeting of the Collaboration Delivery Board for discussion and consideration.
- 2.17 **Joint Home Safety Operatives** – an outline business case is being presented to the Collaboration Delivery Board for the recruitment of two joint (Police and Fire) Home Safety Operatives on a trial/fixed-term basis to prioritise engagement and interventions with vulnerable people who are at risk, or have been victims, of crime. Their work would focus on delivering fire safety and crime prevention advice and implementing practical support and solutions.
- 2.18 **Emergency Planning and Resilience** – a legal agreement is being finalised and costs have been agreed to allow Nottinghamshire Police to access jet washing facilities on fire stations for its vehicle fleet. The agreement will be for an initial 12-month period, after which it will be reviewed.
- 2.19 **Joint Drone** – the joint drone with Nottinghamshire Police has been requested by Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service approximately 30 times and successfully deployed to operational incidents on at least 12 occasions; this includes several large industrial fires, animal and water rescue incidents, a collapsed structure, a fire which had spread within a row of terraced houses, two large fires in the open and several fire investigations.

- 2.20 Benefits include improved situational awareness and decision-making, increased firefighter and public safety, the ability to identify 'hot spots' and fire spread, and a quicker resolution to the incident. Evaluation forms are completed at each incident and the use of the drone will continue to be monitored and evaluated.
- 2.21 Members will be updated on future collaboration developments and progress.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Sharing of NFRS estate with partner agencies such as Nottinghamshire Police will generate an annual rental income that will off-set the running costs of premises and assets therein.
- 3.2 Future collaboration has the potential to produce financial savings for the Authority, forming part of future business cases; however, collaborative savings are often delivered more in the medium to long-term and should be factored into future financial planning.

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 To ensure staff are well prepared for collaborative projects, additional training may be accessed. The Service will also continue to be active within regional and national collaboration networks, to ensure the Service remains connected and open to opportunities to collaborate with other emergency services and partner agencies.
- 4.2 As collaboration activity continues it is likely to impact on the day-to-day work of NFRS staff, with collaboration projects eventually becoming 'business as usual'.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

An equality impact assessment has not been undertaken at this stage, these will form part of any future business cases which are proposed.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

Collaboration has the potential to expand NFRS's ability to discharge its function under the Crime and Disorder Act, by exploring deeper opportunities to share information, deliver community services and improve outcomes.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 NFRS has a statutory duty under the Policing and Crime Act 2017 to consider collaboration with other emergency services to improve efficiency and effectiveness. The Authority's strategy assists in discharging its statutory duties.
- 7.2 The Local Government Act 1999 places a statutory duty on NFRS to 'secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised'. Collaboration has the potential to allow NFRS to secure improvements in the way that functions are delivered to communities

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 The Policing and Crime Act 2017 places a statutory duty to collaborate on the Authority. The Collaboration Strategy allows the Authority to demonstrate its commitment to consider collaboration with other emergency services therefore mitigating risk in this respect.
- 8.2 Assessment of the Service's collaboration activities forms part of the inspection by HMICFRS. The collaboration strategy allows the Authority to demonstrate its strategic intent to collaborate in the interests of efficiency, effectiveness and improving community outcomes.
- 8.3 The National Framework Document indicates an expectation on the Service to be able to demonstrate that it has effective arrangements in place to consider collaborative opportunities with other emergency services.
- 8.4 The Service's Strategic Plan (the Integrated Risk Management Plan) includes collaboration as a key area of future work. Each area of the plan will be assessed for collaborative opportunities with identified partners.
- 8.5 Work is being undertaken to ensure that the appropriate policies and procedures relating to health and safety, risk management, and information/ICT security are in place and have been issued to any personnel who are co-habiting NFRS premises or using them on a regular basis.

9. COLLABORATION IMPLICATIONS

This report provides Members with an update on collaboration workstreams.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members note the contents of this report.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)

None.

John Buckley
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER